Monthly Section Emergency Coordinator Report to ARRL Headquarters			
ARRL Section: South Texas	**Month:** December		**Year: 2020**
AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE			
Total number of ARES members: 1612		**Change since last month: 11**	
# DECs/ECs reporting this month: 34			
# of ARES nets active: 149		**# with NTS liaison: 86**	
Calls of DECs/ECs reporting: AE5VV K0LTB K0YA K5BV K5DDM K5LGV K5RIK K5WEL K7MAL KB5DTS KD5BJ KE5FGA KE5HAM KE5MHJ KF4WSO KG5IRM KG5RXG KI5FU N4DDM N5LVQ N5MDT N5MTX N5SBN N5SMS N5TW N5TW/XYL N5WKM NT5CC W0HIP W3OQ W5ATN WB5HJV WB5TAD WB5UZZ WP2AHG			
Number of drills, tests and training sessions this month	101	Person hours:	2043
Number of public service events this month	29	Person hours:	549
Number of emergency operations this month	6	Person hours:	190
Total number of ARES operations this month	284	Person hours:	2752

SEC
-Work on STX webpage updates of ARES Content
-STX SEC Report generation
-Brazoria County Zoom meeting presentation on the ARES Info Depot Dec 8
-D14 Zoom meeting presentation on the ARES Info Depot Dec 21st
-ARES HF Net Control Duty taken by KD5E 87 participants Dec 21st
-4 weekly HF 3873 nets

ASEC Web
Maintain site backups. Created 7 new articles in December. Upgraded the version of PHP the site uses to 7.4.13. Added an SSL Certificate so the site is now secure (give the lock icon in the browser address bar). The domain names are paid for until 2029, hosting is good until the end of 2021. Groups.io; ARRLSTX has 72 members. STXARES has 590 members.

ASEC Other
-STX Depot web pages and database oversight. Monthly review & stats.
-Weekly Depot bounce report for pages sent during each week.
-Studied why DMARC policy causes bounces for users. Revised Depot code to handle DMARC better.
-Advised user how to get a new password.
-Added new cell phone carrier 'Mint Mobile'.
-Studied impact on Depot code if PHP was upgraded on the host. Upgraded PHP from 7.3 to 7.4 on both development and production machines.

-Cleaned up some unneeded code. Worked on a problem with permissions on the development machine.
-Made all accesses to the STX Depot always land on the secure site https:// instance.
-Studied problem of Forgot Password feature not working for one member. Clarified the instruction shown in the Forgot Password process.

ASEC Advisor
Testing new Winlink software beta versions and other Winlink support.

DISTRICT 01

EC Fort Bend County
We had 61 people attending nets with 33 people producing 93 Winlink messages. Attended 5 NTS sessions with 50 people attending and passing of 27 messages. During the month there were trainings with packet and p2p vara fm sessions. Have been encouraging the team to further their skills with Winlink by providing opportunities such as ARC, Weather net and other local Winlink nets. Participation in the SkyWarn training on December 17th.

EC Galveston County
Number of hours for drills, tests and training included 18 hours by 4 ARES members in support of the CLARC VEC Test Session and 12 hours by 2 ARES members in support of the operation and maintenance of the League City Emergency Communications system.

DISTRICT 02

EC Walker County
-2 members have been working to improve digital skills and will relay information to rest of group.
-1 member activated for weather event by EMC Dec 30 & 31. Monitored communications at night. He made trip to flood prone areas in county to take pictures and relay any information to EMC.

DISTRICT 03

DISTRICT 04

DISTRICT 05

EC Brazos County
First Tuesday monthly ARES net. Monthly meeting second Monday was Zoom meeting. Dwayne W5DPW gave program on lessons learned about placing PL-259 connectors onto coax. I gave program on how to weatherproof your connectors.

DISTRICT 06

EC Kerr County
VARA Training

EC Kinney County
Just getting our group started again. More members to be added shortly.

DISTRICT 07

DEC
Worked with ARCHES Sysops and ECs to bring hospital packet stations on-line.

EC Caldwell County
Hours and events reported under Hays Co.

EC Hays County
Adjusted Antenna at ARCHES station, restarted computer at EB Davis hospital in Luling

EC Lee County
LeeCARES completed the After-Action Report for the November exercise and laid out the foundation of the next one to be held in January. We talked to local authorities to have their input as well. We have also worked on a draft for an agreement with Lee County OEM and the Lee County Sheriff's Office and we are waiting for their response. Two members upgraded their license from Technician to General and one almost completed the basic FEMA classes. A couple of us learned an experimented with cross-band repeaters with their radios. A few of us are studying CW and had the first basic conversation on 2 M. We updated and fixed a few problems with Winlink and got radios up to speed. We re-programmed, check, and strategized to upgrade go-kits and build power boxes. We held a second meeting to plan for the January exercise, and we visited retiring Sheriff, presenting him with a radio and another retirement gift. We went to explore and check the area of the next exercise to decide where to position mobile and base stations. Downloaded and saved in PDF format FEMA flood maps to be used in a rain event or exercise. Drafted first draft of the January exercise involving first time new members in the process and participated in ARES HF nets. Members have kept experimenting with radios, starting a new tower on private residence, and building home-brew antennas.

EC Williamson County
Holiday Time. Utilized down time to put Emcomm Trailer in RV shop for some needed maintenance and upgrades. Expect trailer to be ready and operational by end of first full week of January. Also planning for Winter Field Day on last weekend in Jan 2021. Have 14 campsites already purchased.

DISTRICT 08

DEC

Red Cross: RC Care, RC NSS roll outs supporting regional operations, GIS support for region.

EC Burnet County
There was a significant communications infrastructure outage in Llano County Dec. 30 and 31 affecting landline, internet and cellular services. It was mostly resolved by Jan. 1, 2021. There was some impact to Emergency Services Communications. Llano County ARES offered assistance and did help to determine the scope of the outage.

DISTRICT 09

EC Jasper County
Discussed using Winlink during an emergency, and the need to upgrade to the VARA TNC. We had our annual Christmas party in conjunction with our December meeting. We have added four new members to our roster, two of which were added to the ARES role.

EC Newton County
See Jasper County report for details.

EC Orange County
Nothing to report for Dec 2020. Happy New Year 2021!!

DISTRICT 10

DEC
-Got radio equipment in to equip the Jackson County EOC. Icom IC-7100, AT-180 tuner, Alpha-Delta 5 band fan dipole, Astron 50 amp power supply, Diamond X510 VHF/UHF antenna ...... Waiting on 2 more non-penetrating mast mounts to get it all up.
-Got Jackson County 2 meter repeater on the air - 145.33 mhz pl103.5 .... commercial antenna at 500' .... so far, range to mobiles is about 55 miles. working on getting UHF antenna arrangements done ..... just need tower climbers ...... all being connected via AllStar network ......

Progress planning to add APRS analog and DMR / DStar ......

DISTRICT 12

DEC

EC Gonzales County

DISTRICT 13

DISTRICT 14

DEC
-WEBEOC Training 12/2 (13 participants)- D14 members log into WEBEOC and perform functions including STAR requests
-Upgraded Harris County area VHF/UHF RMS Gateways (9) to VARA FM version 4.0x (allows for digi-peating) 12/4
- Linda, W5LDK retires from ADEC for District 14 and AEC for the SW Unit- Thanks to Linda for all her fine work!
- ECHO Society Meeting 12/14
- HCARES D14 meeting - presentation by Jeff, KE5FGA STX SEC who presented overview of South Texas ARES Depot - 39 attendees 12/21
- Replaced radio hardware at W0MAC RMS VHF gateway (WB5HJV) 12/22
- Peter, KW5PA, ADEC-HCOHSEM, (EL29eu) ADEC-HCOHSEM implemented a MT-63 (2000L) FM node active on 144.910 MHz presenting an opportunity to test this mode.
- AE5PA Earl ADEC-Training - District training work - preparing / refreshing training articles in the HCARES training database in use across multi sections

EC Harris-NE County
No weekly net meetings as the last two Thursday's fail on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. We will resume our virtual net meeting on 1/04/21 to be hosted by AEC KC5NKW as the EC is recovering from surgery.

EC Harris-NW County
We spent time this month working on how to better communicate from leadership to the rest of the team. We submitted a new emergency plan to clarify a few expectations. Our leadership worked on developing a better net script to provide better instructions on digital check ins.

EC Harris-SW County
-December was relatively uneventful. HF band conditions frustrated the Texas HF Net N.C. operators.
-Wayne Johnson K5OB, Admin AEC, will take over the training responsibilities for the SW Unit, scheduling NC/BUNC operators and choosing training scripts.

DISTRICT 15

DEC Cameron County
Held daily information nets on the STAARS repeater system. Our new District 15 EC is Brian Miller- KE5AWU. Drills utilizing the Stars linked repeater system, 2 Meter simplex, Ares HF Net every Monday, and Winlink took place.

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